

SENATE RESOLUTION 39

By Harper

A RESOLUTION to celebrate the 146<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Mount Nebo Missionary Baptist Church.

WHEREAS, the churches of our nation have been an integral part of our history as a people and have had an unparalleled impact in forming and maintaining a stable and just society; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should recognize those venerable religious institutions and their congregations that, through their unflagging capacity for love, dedication of spirit, and faith in God, strive to enrich the lives of people in their communities; and

WHEREAS, one such dynamic and historic community of faith is that of Mount Nebo Missionary Baptist Church, the members of which are celebrating the church's 146<sup>th</sup> anniversary and homecoming on April 23, 2017, with the theme "Thankful for the Past, Living in the Present, Looking for the Future"; and

WHEREAS, Mount Nebo Missionary Baptist Church was organized in 1871 by Reverend Pharaoh Benson and led by Reverend Nelson Merry; the members held services in the Davidson County School House; and

WHEREAS, during the twelve years of Reverend Merry's ministry, the church membership grew tremendously, and the physical structure of the church was destroyed by a storm and rebuilt; and

WHEREAS, throughout the next century, a number of ministers led Mount Nebo Missionary Baptist Church and oversaw additional renovations and improvements to the church's structure; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Gill Gordon was called to lead the church, and he began his ministry with the theme "Let's march together asking God to show us the way"; the membership of Mount Nebo Missionary Baptist Church grew and flourished around Reverend Gordon and his programs, and many members accepted the calling to ministry under his pastorate; and

WHEREAS, after much prayerful consideration, Reverend Gordon was led by God to build a new sanctuary; additionally, the congregation purchased property, refinished the church's furniture, and purchased a van and a car under his directorship; and

WHEREAS, on March 30, 1993, the Reverend Dr. Theodore H. Bryson, Sr., was elected pastor; he was installed on June 20, 1993; and

WHEREAS, under Reverend Dr. Bryson's leadership, Mount Nebo continues to be a light in the community and has strengthened the youth ministry, while creating numerous programs and outreach ministries; and

WHEREAS, the church's new initiatives include a monthly ministry with the residents of Windsor House Nursing Home; Children's Church; a Big Brothers Big Sisters program; a ministry for singles and new members; a food certificate program through a local grocery chain for individuals and families in need; an Adopt-A-Street program; regular community cleanup efforts; and a community cookout for area residents; and

WHEREAS, the devout members of the congregation of Mount Nebo Missionary Baptist Church have faithfully striven to carry out God's work in the world; and

WHEREAS, as a powerful tool in the service of the Kingdom of God, Mount Nebo Missionary Baptist Church is truly one of the great religious institutions and catalysts for positive spiritual change in our State and Nation, and the members of this exceptional congregation should be appropriately honored for their exemplary service to their fellow Christians and to the good people of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we join in the celebration of the 146<sup>th</sup> anniversary and homecoming of Mount Nebo Missionary Baptist Church, thank the good people

of this historic congregation and their ministers for their notable service to their Lord and the State of Tennessee, and wish them much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.